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to be regretted, in the interest of sociology, that the title had not been limited to its last two words: Sociologie Première.

LESTER F. WARD.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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*The History of the Last Quarter Century in the United States.* By E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS, 2 vols., pp. xxii + 390 and xxi + 409. Three hundred and fifty illustrations. \$6. Charles Scribner's Sons.

THE history which is hardest to understand is that nearest to the student. Precisely this contemporary history is of most consequence to the sociologist who believes that his science should be able to interpret their own times to men of action. The difficulties of writing contemporary history can hardly be more justly and clearly expressed than in President Andrews' preface. The volumes do not profess to contain the final word upon the social reactions of the last twenty-five years in our country. They are recitals of events which seem to a man of keen historical instinct the most significant. President Andrews has little in common with the historical microscopists. He knows the value of details so well that he can subordinate them properly to the general effect, and still present more truth by his method than the sifters of historical diamond dust are apt to reach. In these volumes he is not writing for philosophers, but he is telling a story which ought to fascinate all intelligent Americans. He has frequently chosen to speak of the picturesque instead of the vitally essential occurrences, but in general he has recorded events in which controlling tendencies are betrayed. Although the work will entertain like fiction those who want to read it simply for diversion, I regard it as a most suitable preparation for systematic knowledge of our own times. The author has discounted the inevitable inadequacies of such an attempt, by the qualifications in his preface. He need have no doubt, however, about the fulfillment of his wish "that prospectors traversing this forest hereafter may get on better for our toil in blazing the path."

The two volumes contain much material besides that which originally appeared in Scribner's. The author's well-known views upon the utility of silver as a money metal color his account of the monetary legislation of 1873, and subsequent years, but, in justice to him and to ourselves, it must be admitted by fair-minded men that the argument

for reconsideration of our currency system will by no means be exhausted when the 16 to 1 scheme is defeated. The accounts of the agrarian and labor movement are decidedly helpful, though but fragmentary. The same is true of the American Protective Association, the Salvation Army, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the progress of the colored population, and the history of important measures in connection with the careers of leaders, Blaine, Cleveland, Conkling, Garfield, Grant, Greeley, Harrison, Hayes, Sherman, etc.

While the volumes are primarily popular, both in style and matter, no student who wants to understand American social movements during the twenty-five years just past, can afford to miss the help which their vivid realism will afford.

ALBION W. SMALL.

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*The Coming Individualism.* By A. EGMONT HAKE and O. E. WESSLAU. Archibald Constable & Co. (Westminster), 1895. Imported by The Macmillan Co. Pp. 347. \$4.

THIS volume is so handsome that as one proceeds to examine it the idea is suggested that the motive for producing it must have been largely æsthetic. This remark is not intended to suggest that the motive was not also economic, or that the British publishers did not know what they were about in producing such a book; on the contrary, there is not lacking evidence that Mr. A. Egmont Hake is a man of large means, for we know from the advertisement that he has previously published a number of books, and we may therefore take for granted that he has established his pecuniary responsibility to the satisfaction of his publishers. Nevertheless, we feel some surprise that the Macmillan Co. should have imported the book. Although he would not advise anyone to follow his example, the reviewer has conscientiously read every word of the ten chapters written by Messrs. Hake and Wesslau, as well as the essay on "Municipal Government," by Mr. Francis Fletcher-Vane, which is bound with this work, although no mention of it appears on the title-page. The subjects discussed are interesting and the style is bright and animated, but the book is honeycombed with absurdities which are the more noticeable because of the author's pretentious rationalism, and so far as the reviewer can judge there is no fresh thought in the work to justify its existence, unless we except the admirable presentation of the scope of operation